

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MCT-01 CU-02 AID-05 SY-05 ARAE-00 A-01

OPR-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 DHA-02 PC-01 /080 W

-----031903Z 056254 /45

P R 031535Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2004

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 4523

LIMA PASS TO ASST. SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT: STUDENTS CONTINUE DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: BRASILIA 4205

1. SUMMARY. STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA WENT ON STRIKE ON MAY 31 IN PROTEST OF THE SUSPENSION OF 16 COLLEAGUES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL DAY OF STRUGGLE PROTESTS AT THE UNIVERSITY ON MAY 19 (REFTEL). THE ILLEGAL STRIKE, STILL IN PROGRESS, HAS SO FAR RESULTED IN NO VIOLENCE, ALTHOUGH LARGE NUMBERS OF POLICE HAVE BEEN STATIONED ON THE CAMPUS'S PERIMETER AND SOME 50 TO 100 PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN ENTERED THE CAMPUS ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 2 TO TEAR DOWN PLACARDS. ELSEWHERE, STUDENT LEADERS HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO HOLD A NATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING ON SATURDAY JUNE 4 IN BELO HORIZONTE, DESPITE THE MEETING'S HAVING BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL

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AND PROHIBITED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROXIMATELY 1000 REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA (UNB) MET ON MAY 31, VOTED TO STRIKE IN PROTEST OF THE SUSPENSION OF 16 OTHER STUDENTS AND STAGED A BRIEF PROTEST MARCH ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, PICKING UP SUPPORT FROM ANOTHER

1000 STUDENTS. THE 16 PERSONS SUSPENDED BY THE RECTOR, FOR PERIODS OF FROM 3 TO 29 DAYS, WERE ALL ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN LOCAL LEADERS OF THE NATIONWIDE MAY 19 DEMONSTRATIONS CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN BRAZIL. THREE MDB FEDERAL DEPUTIES WENT TO THE CAMPUS TO ADDRESS THE STUDENTS AND EXTEND THEIR SUPPORT TO THE STRIKE, PROMPTING ARENA SENATE MAJORITY LEADER EURICO REZENDE TO ACCUSE THEM OF SUBVERSION. (COMMENT: IN 1968, THREE OTHER MDB FEDERAL DEPUTIES WERE CASSATED WHEN THEY WENT TO EH UNB TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR A STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT THAT TIME.) BY WEDNESDAY JUNE 1, THE UNIVERSITY WAS EFFECTIVELY SHUT DOWN, WITH ALMOST NO STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASSES; THE RECTOR, HOWEVER, PROMISED THAT THE STRIKERS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE OTHER STUDENTS FROM ATTENDING CLASSES IF THEY WISHED.

3. SEVERAL TRUCKLOADS OF MILITARY POLICE WERE STATIONED JUST OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS PERIMETER DURING THE LATE MORNING OF JUNE 1, BUT TOOK NO ACTION AND LEFT IN THE EARLY AFTERNOON AS THE STUDENT CONCENTRATION DISPERSED. ON JUNE 2, THE POLICE WERE BACK IN GREATER FORCE: APPROXIMATELY 400 TO 500 OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY, SOME ARMED WITH RIFLES, STOPPING ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE CAMPUS AND CHECKING THEIR INDENTITY PAPERS. IN ADDITION SOME 50 TO 100 PLAINCLOTHES POLICE REMAIN ON THE CAMPUS, AFTER ENTERING THE MORNING OF JUNE 2 TO TEAR DOWN STUDENT BARRICADES AND PLACARDS BEARING POLITICAL SLOGANS AND STRIKER'S GRIEVANCES. THERE HAVE THUS FAR BEEN NO REPRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THE STRIKERS OR THEIR LEADERS, ALTHOUGH THE RECTOR CLAIMED THAT A SMALL GROUP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF RADICALS WAS COERCING THE OTHER STUDENTS INTO NOT ATTENDING CLASSES AND THREATENED TO IMPOSE FURTHER SANCTIONS ON MORE STUDENTS.

4. ONE DAY BEFORE THE START OF THE UNB STRIKE, EDUCATION MINISTER NEY BRAGA ANNOUNCED THAT THE PLANNED JUNE 4 NATIONAL STUDENTS MEETING IN BELO HORIZONTE WAS ILLEGAL AND THEREFORE PROHIBITED. STUDENT DIRECTORY LEADERS AT THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MINAS GERAIS (UFMG) IN BELO HORIZONTE SAID THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE HELD DESPITE THE PROHIBITION, AND BEGAN DEVISING MEANS OF INFORMING THEIR COLLEAGUES OF THE MEETING'S SPECIFIC SITE WITHOUT INFORMING THE POLICE. ACCORDING TO A LOCAL AMERICAN SOURCE, THE RECTOR OF THE UFMG IS NOW TAKING THE POSITION THAT THE MEETING MAY OCCUR AS LONG AS IT TAKES PLACE ON CAMPUS. THE MOOD IN BELO HORIZONTE WAS DESCRIBED AS TENSE AS JUNE 4 APPROACHED.

5. COMMENT. STUDENTS AT THE UNB ARE ANGRY AT THE PRESENCE

ON CAMPUS OF PLAINCLOTHES POLICEMEN, AND HAVE PLEDGED THAT THE STRIKE WILL CONTINUE. THE STUDENTS BELIEVE THAT THE RECTOR, A DISCIPLINARIAN, WILL PROBABLY USE THE OCCASION TO EITHER EXPEL OR SUSPEND MORE STUDENTS. HIGH AUTHORITIES IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE BEEN QUOTED IN NEWSPAPERS AS SAYING THAT THEY WILL NOT PERMIT ANY FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS LIKE THIS ONE. TENSION IS INCREASING, THE POLICE ARE CLEARLY READY TO INVADE THE CAMPUS, AND THE STUDENTS SEEM MORE BELIGERENT. THE SECURITY FORCES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE THEIR TACTIC OF THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, PICKING UP STUDENT LEADERS FOR QUESTIONING AND THEN RELEASING THEM SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO WAIT OUT THE STUDENTS IN HOPE THAT THE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL DIE OUT. THE DEMONSTRATIONS, HOWEVER, SHOW FEW SIGNS OF DYING OUT AND THE AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE TO RESORT TO MORE FORCEFUL MEASURES, SUCH AS MASS ARRESTS, IF THEY INTEND TO BREAK THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNB STRIKE OR PREVENT THE JUNE 4 NATIONAL MEETING IN BELO HORIZONTE. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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